

MR. DANIELSON: Hello. I'm Luke Danielson. I'm President of Sustainable Development Strategies Group, a nonprofit, located in Gunnison, Colorado. We do research and advising government on mineral policy. We probably advised at least two dozen governments in the last couple of years.

One of the really important subjects to people everywhere is how we take one-time finite mineral resources and turn them into sustainable communities or sustainable benefits to our society. And there are a number of things I'd like to say about that.

But, let's, let's start by looking at the Colorado experience. You know we stand here in the Territory of the Ute people, who we should acknowledge. And in the time since we displaced them, largely, largely driven by our desire to get our hands on -- or on mineral resources.

We've had -- first let's talk about the silver boom. Right? That's what brought my family here to Leadville in the 1880s. Enormous wealth generated -- the Guggenheim fortune started -- the Tabors. All of those stories driven by government policy. Right? Free coinage of silver. And when the government changed its policy, Leadville and the rest of the silver belt went into a state of collapse.

My family story is there were a lot of people had trouble finding the resources to get out of the mining camps to somewhere they could survive. What did we have left? Lots of environmental problems. Not a lot of sustainable benefits. Sitting here in Grand Junction, we can talk about the uranium boom of the '50s. Again, largely spurred by government policies.

Purchase of uranium created enormous wealth -- the Steen family, the Mi Vida mine. All of those stories. Until at some point in the '60s Congress cut off the program, and we, we had a collapse. Again, two or 300 uranium mines in the Colorado plateau went out of business.

What did we learn? Not very much. Oil shale in the 1980s. Boom followed by bust. So, what my, my point is we're doing a lot better, I think, of -- in the environmental area. We now have reclamation programs.

I think were we, we lack this -- we don't have programs to deal with the long-term social and economic consequences of this cycle. Those exist. They're being implemented by communities around the country and, and lots of places abroad.

But, we need to focus on the social and economic dimension of this problem as we have on the environment. Thank you.